

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1941-THE OTWELL IRIS FIELDS-1941

CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS



LIBRARY
RECEIVED

★ APR 5 1941 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

This is the home of my Grandmother—one hundred years ago. She and her four sons and five daughters, of which my father was the oldest, constituted the most religious family I have ever known. I have seen her go upon her knees and talk to the Lord in simple child-like faith, saying, "Now Lord, you gave me these nine children and you will have to help me take care of them, I can't do it without you." And not for a moment did she ever doubt. My father and mother built their home close by and raised eight children to maturity on 20 acres of stump land. I have seen my mother put the sugar bowl on the table for three months in succession without a grain of sugar in it. And we never knew we were poor. We learned to live on hard work and I love it yet. And only four minutes from this cabin I am sitting in my office out here on the farm—telling you about my Iris fields.

Fifty thousand people come each year to ponder upon these lovely acres. These fields of beauty are grown for you. They are kept and embellished for your happiness. They would not be half so beautiful, nor I half so happy, if you did not come to see us.

In this modest folder there is not one variety that I have not grown and tested for its health and beauty before offering it to you. And I do not see how I can spend the rest of my time to better advantage, than to send these lovely creations out all over the broad expanse of our land in the certainty that you too will catch the spirit I am trying to tell you about.

WILL B. OTWELL

Please preserve this folder. You are sure to need it before the year is over. Our fields have been greatly reduced in acreage but increased in finer varieties.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF 5000 WALNUT TREES

6 to 16 feet high, planted in 1935 by Will B. Otwell, Carlinville, Ill., founder of the **Otwell Tree Planting Club of America**. Rows quarter mile long. Beautiful beyond words to describe. Mr. Otwell says he would rather have a hundred forest trees growing in his honor than to have a marble statue high as the State House Dome.

For Your Information

I grow no flowers but Irises but I grow **them** by the millions.

Send me your orders soon as you make up your mind and I will ship at best time.

July, August, September, October and November are good planting months—the weather has lots to do with it.

If you live in far distant states, enclose 25 cents extra to help pay postage.

At prices quoted in this folder, all shipments go to you by **Parcels Post, Prepaid**.

Don't scold. That's the cheapest thing in the world. Write a courteous letter about any mistakes and you will get the same in reply.

Please look over the full page of Bargain Collections and see if some of them do not answer your requirements.

It is usually cheaper to buy that way, as we often take up hundreds of collections at one time.

Our Prices—We don't let others undersell us and we do not know of any firm that grows better stock. Everything is guaranteed to please you or your money will be refunded.

Terms—All orders are cash. No shipments made C. O. D.

Turn to page 7 and read all about my reddest collection.

Other growers may have more **Reds** than I, but I do not know who they are.

12 of a Kind—Where the folder quotes Irises at one dollar per dozen, it means a dozen of one kind. To get the dozen rate it is necessary to order a dozen of one kind.

Iris Beauty—Plant fewer sorts and plant more of one sort if you wish to have real Iris Beauty. Plant at least three of a kind and better yet, a dozen of each kind.

Please drive a little slower. Last year there were 34,000 people killed by automobiles in the U. S. Won't you please be careful to drive a little slower when you enter the Iris Fields?

Read about the **Red Collection** on page 7.

REVISED LIST OF OLD AND NEW VARIETIES

All Sent Parcel Post, Prepaid

Afterglow—Soft grayish lavender pink shading to buff. Branched—very attractive. 25 cents.

Alan Hoyt—A rich brown and buff iris, early, huge flowers. Height 42 inches. 25 cents.

Alice Harding—A soft primrose yellow with a buff blend near the base of the falls. Large and flowering. 25 cents.

Alpenglow—A large purplish blue iris, falls faintly marked with white. Tall and attractive. 25 cents.

All-u-we—A new type variegata. Standards are yellow suffused with peach—falls long and ruddy shading into gold. 25 cents.

Alta California—Large clear deep yellow. One of the newest and most satisfactory grown. 48 inches. 25 cents.

Amanacer—A fine blend of pastel shades. 25 cents.

Annellia—A lovely new plicata. Falls are white with feather stitch edging of bright rose purple. Standards lilac and beautifully ruffled. 25 cents.

Apache—Large rusty red flower—resembles a brown orchid. Much admired. 25 cents.

Aphrodite—One of the loveliest pink irises in our entire list. 36 in. Fine in every way. 25 cents.

Argynnis—Yellow standards, velvety violet carmine falls. 25 cents.

Blue Banner—A gorgeous blue bi-color. Standards bright lavender blue, beautifully frilled, falls deep rich pansy with a border of bright lavender matching the standards. 25 cents.

Blue Triumph—42 inches. A fine soft blue with flaring falls. 25 cents.

Blue Velvet—An intense rich deep blue iris, self. Velvety. 25 cents.

Bridesmaid—Snow white — Good height. 25 cents.

California Gold—Tallest, best, finest golden iris. 50 cents.

Cadenza—Beautiful tall new iris of smoky pastel shades with blue splash in center of falls. 25 cents.

Caprice—Five hundred women voted Caprice the second best iris on the list. Large, beautiful, fragrant magenta red. 25 cents.

Cardinal—Rich red purple. 25 cents.

Chromylla—A large beautiful flower of good form and texture in yellow chrome. 25 cents.

Cinnabar—Deep, velvety bi-color in rich purple. Very attractive. 25 cents.

Clara Noyes—A beautiful Talisman rose color. 25 cents.

Colias—A yellow self of fine texture and quality. 25 cents

Columbine—Nothing finer in a white iris—same quality as Ahprodite, one of its parents. 25 cents.

Coppersmith—Extra fine large flower of coppery red. 25 cents.

Coralie—A blend of bright raspberry pink with golden beard. 35 cents.

Coronation—One of the finest grown. Three feet. Large, yellow, fragrant. Pleases everybody. 25 cents.

Crimson King—Dark purplish red, almost black. 25 cents.

Crown Jewel—A finer larger version of Clara Noyes. A beautiful Talisman rose shade. 25 cents.

Crystal Beauty—Tall, large pure white. 50 cents.

Cydalise—A really lovely yellow plicata etched around the falls with chocolate brown. 25 cents.

Dauntless—Sold for \$35 for a single plant only a few years ago. A wonderful bloomer and a favorite with all our visitors. 25 cents.

Depute Nomblot—A giant in claret crimson with a slight overlay of bronze. Extraordinarily beautiful. 35 cents.

Dogrose—Fine large beautiful flower—pink—one of the best. 35 cents.

Drake—A pale blue self of a silvery texture. Very lovely. 25c.

Dream—Tall, strong, stands up in rain or storm—delicate pink. Very very beautiful. You will fall in love with dream. 25 cents.

Eclador—A crystalline yellow iris by Cayeaux. No yellow iris surpasses this one in exquisiteness of sheen. 50 cents.

Edward Michael—White standards—claret red falls—very bright and showy. Good for borders. 25 cents.

Eclat—Ripe Apricot shade. 25 cents.

Eloise Lapham—Pale satiny pink self. Dainty. Free bloomer. 25 cents.

Eros—A beautiful salmon pink self. Fragrant. Absolutely different. 50 cents.

Ethelwyn Durbar—Largest and finest pink toned iris ever produced. 35 cents.

Ethel Peckham—A gigantic red iris. Especially fine. Fragrant. 50 cents.

Euphony—One of the best copper blends, old gold with soft violet. A beauty. 25 cents.

Fairy—White—blue flush in the throat. Sweet scented. 25 cents.

Fascination—A bright pink-toned variety. A large flower and one of the most popular pinks. 25 cents.

Firefall—Fiery red—loved by all who see it. 25 cents.

Flamingo—A gorgeous bronze red that overshadows all its neighbors. Can be seen a great distance. Long blooming season. 25 cents.

Folkwang—A truly different iris. Lilac tinged standards and brilliant pink falls. Shows a long way. Late. 25 cents.

Freida Mohr—This magnificent iris has probably won more first prizes than any other iris. Tall, fragrant, beautiful pink. 25 cents.

Frivolite—An attractive pink iris of largest merit. 25 cents.

Fro—Deep rich gold standards. Velvety bronze crimson falls, sweet scented. 25 cents.

Gaviota—Lovely plicata. Cream edged with palest yellow. 25 cents.

George J. Tribolet—Dark red purple—almost black. Velvety. 25 cents.

Gilead—Tall buff amber blend. Broad heavy flowers of heavy substance. 25 cents.

Golden Bow—Long, large flowers of chrome yellow. Early. 25 cents.

Golden Flare—An unusually attractive blending of Talisman rose colors with a faint electric blue flush on the falls. 25 cents.

Golden Glow—A rich yellow self. 25 cents.

Golden Light—Best of the new brown blends. Beautifully ruffled. Edged with soft lilac. 35 cents.

Gold Imperial—A tall fine golden self. 25 cents.

Grace Sturtevant—Rich red brown and carmine iris. 25 cents.

Gudrun—Very large white iris. Early. 50 cents.

Hernani—A rich garnet red. 25 cents.

Happy Days—Deep yellow, early. Unusually fine. 50 cents.

Imperator—A light wine-red self. 25 cents.

Imperial Blush—A fragrant—soft pink iris. 25 cents.

Indian Chief—An outstanding brilliant red iris. Early and tall. 25 cents.

Iris King—Yellow with rich maroon falls. 25 cents.

Isolene—Silvery rose standards, flushed with bronze, falls mauve veined with gold. 25 cents.

Jean Cayeux—Unlike any other iris color. Coffee au lait shade. Soft brown self. 50 cents.

King Tut—A popular brilliant red toned iris. Very rich. 25 cents.

Kaysna—Bronze, darker falls. 25 cents.

Legend—A magnificent gold-bearded reddish purple iris. Huge flowers. 35 cents.

Lent A. Williamson—Violet standards blended with rich yellow, falls pansy violet shade. 25 cents.

Liberty Bell—Tall white feather stitched with red. 25 cents.

Lord of June—A very large lavender blue self with yellow throat. 25 cents.

Lycæna—White standards. Very bright blue falls. 25 cents.

Madame Cheri—A violet pink of good form. 25 cents.

Madame Gaudicheau—One of the finest growers and heaviest bloomers in the entire list. Purple self, large and beautiful. Rich in color and texture. 25 cents.

Madame Pompadour—Old rose. 25 cents.

Magenta—Bright magenta iris. Fragrant. 25 cents.

Magnifica—Pink toned. Handsome in every way. Good grower and bloomer. 25 cents.

Marie Poole—A fine all white iris. 25 cents.

Mary Geddes—Blend of soft pink overlaid with Pomeranian red. 25 cents.

Mester—Large velvety blue self. 25 cents.

Midgard—Pastel pink and yellow blend. Medium height. 25 cents.

Morning Splendor—One man said "If I could have only one iris it would be Morning Splendor." Large, tall, fragrant, raisin-red. Very, very proud and beautiful. 25 cents.

Mrs. Hetty Matson—Grey blue standards. Rich purple falls. Early. 25 cents.

Mrs. Marian Cran—A very tall, lovely, ruffled pink. 25 cents.

Muscatel—Light brownish red. 25 cents.

Muzeris—Standards are apricot flushed with old rose. Falls a bright rosy crimson. 25 cents.

Nanook—An exquisite, new, ivory-colored iris with amber adges and orange veining. Most beautiful. 25 cents.

Naranja—A huge orange colored iris. 50 cents.

Neptune—A beautiful blue with lavender sheen. Falls a deeper blue. 25 cents.

Nibelungen—Rich fawn changing to golden buff. Falls a reddish purple. 25 cents.

Onyx—A very attractive and well liked iris. Cream standards and brilliant onyx red falls. 25 cents.

Otwell's Sky Blue—We sell more Sky Blue than any other single variety. Beautiful heavenly blue. Tall, strong and very fragrant. Stands up in the wind and rain. Fine for border. 25 cents.

Pacific—Large clear blue—early—magnificent. 25 cents.

Parisianna—A white, thickly dotted with purple. Unusual. 25 cents.

Phyllis Bliss—White with violet falls. 25 cents.

Pioneer—A very large, brilliant red purple. Nothing more showy or prolific on the entire list. You will love this magnificent iris. 25 cents.

Pluie d'or—A very fine tall clear deep yellow. 25 cents.

Pongee—A uniform buff colored flower. Has the color and texture of pongee silk. 25 cents.

Prospero—A large free-flowering purplish blue iris. 25 cents.

Queen Caterina—Pale orchid blue self. Lovely texture. Scented. 25 cents.

Rameses—Winner of the Dykes Memorial Medal. A beautiful flower in every way. Pink blend. 25 cents.

Rajput—A bright violet self. A real beauty. 25 cents.

Red Elf—Very early. Rich ruby red. Good for borders. 25 cents.

Red Flare—A new red variety of great beauty. 25 cents.

Red Radiance—A perfectly beautiful rich red, both deep and brilliant. 50 cents.

Rhea—Standards of lobelia violet and falls of pansy violet. Unusual. 25 cents.

Rheingauperle—An exquisite flower of fine form. Soft pink tone. One of the very loveliest. 25 cents.

Rhein Nix—White with purple blue falls. 25 cents.

Rheintochter—White in color. 40 cents.

Rob Roy—Rich red iris equal to Dauntless. You will love this iris. 25 cents.

Rose Ash—A fine early flower with a rare ashes of roses color. 25 cents.

Rose Dominion—Beautiful, brilliant rose color. Quite unlike most others. 25 cents.

Rose Madder—Bright rose madder. Tall and fragrant. 25 cents.

Rose Petal—A deep rose petal pink iris. Sweet scented. 25 cents.

Rubio—A tall rich beautiful red, of largest size. Nothing finer in the fields. 50 cents.

Ruby Perry—Bluish pink. Fine tall and fragrant. Exquisitely beautiful. Longest season. Blooms early and stays late. 40 inches. Fine as a single stalk or in a clump. We grow nothing finer. 25 cents.

Sacramento—A giant in size, white bordered with red purple. One of the largest and best. 25 cents.

Selene—(Moon Goddess). 40 inches. A very large silvery white iris, frilled petals. 25 cents.

Seminole—Rich velvety crimson. None finer. 25 cents.

Sha Jehan—Standards soft creamy buff. Falls are a deep rich ruby red with eighth of an inch bordered in white. A most unusual and new flower. 35 cents.

Shekinah—A fine yellow self. Tall and ruffled. 25 cents.

Shiwassee—Very large tall glowing red. 25 cents.

Sierra Blue—50 inches. A large clear blue self. 35 cents.

Solferino—56 inches—a large pink iris on the order of Aphrodite. 25 cents.

Sonata—A beautiful flower shading from buff to sulphine yellow. Falls are lilac shading to yellow. 25 cents.

Steepway—Iridescent pink mauve. Old rose effect en masse. Very beautiful and orchid like. 25 cents.

Sundipt—40 inches. A wonderfully tall straight glowing yellow. 50 cents.

Trails End—Bittersweet red with slightly darker falls. Unique and attractive. 25 cents.

True Charm—A charming plicata margined with blue. 25 cents.

True Delight—A beautiful white with bright pink edges. Fine form and an outstanding variety. 25 cents.

Tuscorora—A brilliant red toned flower that is highly attractive. 25 cents.

Tuscany Gold—A large well formed bronzed old gold. 25 cents.

Varese—A large brilliant red purple flower. Very distinctive and attractive. 50 cents.

Venus di Milo—Cream white. Beautiful substance. Midseason. 25 cents.

Vert Gallant—50 inches. A beautiful coppery red. Free bloomer. Singly or in mass it is unsurpassed. 50 cents.

Virginia Moore—A rich gold self. Fine for borders. 25 cents.

Wambliska—48 inches. (White Eagle). A white iris of heavy waxy texture. 25 cents.

White Knight—A beautiful truly white iris. Heavy bloomer. Late. 25 cents.

White Queen—Pure white and fine. 25 cents.

Zamora—Attractive purple blue self. 25 cents.

Zilia—A fine tall pansy blue self. 25 cents.

Zuni—Huge flower. Rich growing red brown suffused with copper. 25 cents.

One of the sweetest visitors that has ever graced our flower fields came out from the Institution for the Blind at Jacksonville, Illinois. She smelled them, she caressed them, she called them pretty names and her exuberant happiness made us all ashamed of ourselves.

Will B. Otwell



This is the way they come to the Otwell Iris Fields. Last year there were cars from 15 states in one day. Of course **one way traffic** must be observed. There is a perfectly good cinder road through the fields so that wet weather doesn't cut much figure. Every precaution is taken to safeguard the comfort and safety of our visitors. Reckless driving is out of place anywhere, but here in the Iris Fields there are people everywhere. No one with a grain of sense will drive fast in a crowd.

Fast driving is not a sign of **good driving**. It often happens that the fastest driver has the least to do when he gets there. Always, here and elsewhere, take thought for the safety and comfort of others. Flowers and happiness go hand in hand. Leave your grouches and scoldings outside the fields. Associate with sunshine and good wishes for everybody. First thing you know your life will undergo a great and beautiful change. **You will start to live.** You will attract good people to you. You will realize that to give of your talents to others is the greatest blessing that has ever come to anyone.

I never knew of so much happiness and good cheer and good wishes and joyous life—as attends the great crowds of lovely people, that come to the Otwell Iris Fields in May. You too are welcome—thrice welcome, without money or without price.

No admission fee. Nothing to pay—just thank the good Lord that you are alive and living in the garden spot of the world.

WILL B. OTWELL, CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS



Shiwassee and Morning Splendor. Beautiful Beyond Words.

OUTSTANDING COLLECTIONS

Please look these over and see if some of them meet your requirements. They are all filled with very best plants and choice varieties. In fact, I send out but one grade—the very best.

RED IRIS BARGAIN

My loveliest Iris Collection. My most beautiful Red Iris Bargain.

16 Reds in four varieties and different shades of iris red. Also two each of outstanding pink and yellow—20 in all. Beautiful beyond words. Post paid to your home for only \$2.00. Sent at the best time to plant. You will love these Red Beauties. All labeled.

Pink Collection—4 Marion Cran, a tall large graceful pink self. Ruffled standards and falls; 4 Aphrodite, a magnificent four foot rich pink iris of beautiful quality and sheen; 4 Fascination, a bright rose pink self. It is fragrant, gay and early; 4 Rheingauperlle, a soft shell pink. Long, long blooming season. Always loaded with blooms. Fine for driveways, borders, walks; 4 Rameses, a huge iris. Pink and pearl shades, lighted with gold at the throat; all of these are labeled. All beautiful. **Postpaid for \$2.**

Purple and Gold Collection—3 California Gold, 3 Gold Imperial, 3 Coronation, 3 Pioneer, 3 Souvenir de Mme. Gaudicheau, 3 George J. Tribolet, 2 Cinnabar, **Postpaid \$2.00.**

Prairie State Collection—6 Pioneer, 6 Indian Chief, 6 Dauntless, **Postpaid \$1.00.**

Sunset Collection—2 Trails End, 2 Firefall, 2 King Tut, 2 Steepway, 2 Rose Dominion, 2 Alpenglowl, 2 Onyx, 2 Coppersmith, 2 Afterglow, 2 Rose Madder. All labeled. **\$2.00 Postpaid.**

Sunrise Collection—3 Morning Splendor, 3 Apache, 3 Ruby Perry, 3 Rose Madder, 3 Amanacer, 3 Coronation, 3 Crimson King. All labeled. **Postpaid for \$2.00.**

Novelty Collection—2 Zilia, 2 True Delight, 2 Cydalise, 2 Onyx, 2 Folkwang, 2 Euphony, 2 Iris King, 2 Lycaena, 2 Sonata, 1 extra Sacramento. **Postpaid \$2.00.**

1. Red, White and Blue. Four Reds, 4 Whites, 4 Blues, among my prettiest varieties. Also as a good will stroke, I put you in one beautiful Pink free, all for **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

2. White, Pink and Yellow. Four Whites, 4 Pinks, 4 Yellows, also one Shiwassee—free. **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

3. Nightingale Collection. Three Sky Blue, 3 Caprice and 2 Crimson King—8 in all—for **only 50c.** 3 collections for **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

4 Nine Sky Blue and Nine Caprice for only **One Dollar,** or 18 of either one, **Postage Paid.**

5. Memory Box. One each of 12 lead-

ing varieties, Red, White, Blue, Pink, Lavender. Nothing nicer and you also get one Shiwassee **free.** Parcels Post prepaid for only **One Dollar.**

No. 6. Two white, 2 Red, 2 Purple, 2 Blue, 2 Pink and Lavender, 2 Shiwassee. **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

No. 10 Collection. 100 Irises of ten different varieties. This collection will give you a fine start toward a commodious Iris garden. Ten each of ten leading sorts and I give you the best things I grow. All for **\$5.00, Prepaid.**

I send out thousands of collections. Of course, I ship more **Red Collections** than any others.





Standing In A Block Of Coronation

In 50 years, I have not traveled from this spot, more than 10 days at a time and that only once. "Why do you not go far and see the beauties of the world?" you ask. My answer is, I am already there.

No place on earth quite so dear, as where you labored and loved and lost and found happiness—for 50 years.

Come see us.

WILL B. OTWELL